



SAN BRUNO PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES

July 15, 2009

Chair Pierce called the regularly scheduled meeting of the San Bruno Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 6:33 p.m., Wednesday July 15, 2009.

Commissioner Bower led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT AT MEETING – Commissioners: Bower, Davis, Vice-Chair Greenberg, Marshall, Nigel, Chair Pierce, Stanton, and Zamattia. Excused: Commissioner Lara. Staff: Schwartz, Brewer, Freitas and Mattias. Council Liaison: Ibarra. Public: 17 members of the public were in attendance.

MINUTES: MSC Zamattia/Stanton to approve the Minutes of the June 17, 2009 Meeting. Davis & Marshall abstained.

A. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. b Catalpa Lot – (item moved up by Chair Pierce)

Commissioner Stanton stated that the Ad-hoc Committee met and discussed options for Catalpa, which included adding playground equipment, leaving the lot vacant, lawn area for public use with linear tot equipment, use as a community garden and use as a dog park. **Director Schwartz** handed out pictures of types of linear playground equipment that could be used and a City map highlighting both City and school facilities that have playgrounds.

Chair Pierce opened discussion to commission:

Commissioner Nigel walked thru park saw where pipeline was and can support a linear playground. **Commissioner Davis** asked if a community gardens would be a need there. Staff responded that they are trying to contact the individuals who operate the community gardens near Lions Field. **Commissioner Greenberg** asked if swings not just for toddlers but also for school aged children could be placed there. Staff stated that the Fall Zone for each piece of equipment can be located over the pipeline and will bring potential design options back to the Commission at the next meeting. **Commissioner Zamattia** asked about funding. **Director Schwartz** said that the funds originally designated for Catalpa playground equipment were used during the improvements to the 18 playgrounds the City made over the past two years. He also said that staff would get cost estimates for the top two options. **Manager Freitas** said that we do have tot swings in storage that may be used.

Chair Pierce opened discussion to public – comments from public:

Yana Peters, Fleetwood Drive, lives next to park and expressed that she is opposed to having a playground in the Park due to the many problems she had years ago with graffiti, vandalism to her home and fence, partying of teens, etc. when playground was there.

Denis & Kathy Jordan, Toyon Way, Dennis said he has walked neighborhood and feels everyone is in favor of park. He never heard of gas line being an issue over the years attending Park. Kathy submitted a "petition to restore our tot lot on catalpa" with many signatures.

Alan Lubke, Fleetwood Drive, has lived here for 28 years and has used playground, asked about the status of the basketball courts, old cable office building, who is responsible for fencing around area and the Rollingwood signs. He feels that area needs to be paved and set aside for kids to ride bicycles. Staff added to the list of option to move the playground across the street and move the basketball court to the former playground site.

Lloyd Chaney, Fleetwood Drive, stated he feels that the Park is a selling point and Rollingwood needs a playground.

Sharon Baum, Claremont Drive, stated she is in favor of playground and thanked commission for putting basketball court on list and asked if playground equipment in storage is new or used. She also said that Earl & Glenview tot lot is very nice and asked how much that renovation cost. **Manager Freitas** replied that the piece of equipment in storage is new and Earl & Glenview's equipment was \$36,000 with no installation costs.

Kathy Jordan, Toyon Way, asked when park would be restored and when did park get taken off list for renovations. **Commissioner Davis** noted that Catalpa was part Phase II renovations and at that time there were still many issues with Catalpa so it was decided to exclude park until all issues were resolved. **Mrs. Jordan** also asked timeframe of these options to have something done. Staff noted that once a decision has been made then they would submit a recommendation to City Council.

Commissioner Nigel asked public to give questions in writing to PRC.

The final list of options for improvement were noted:

1. Tot equipment
2. Tot equipment and children's equipment
3. Vacant lot
4. Tot lot and lawn area
5. Community garden
6. Community garden and tot lot
7. Dog park
8. Move playground across street and move basketball court
9. Remove building; Replace with equipment
10. Pave non right of way for tricycle area
11. Rent out building

Chair Pierce closed public comments and opened discussion to commission:

Commissioner Marshall asked if park could be cleaned up until funds are available for long-range plan. **Chair Pierce** asked about having a public clean up day.

Commissioner Davis recommended having staff go forward with using existing equipment and finding out costs of future equipment combining age appropriate (2-5 years and 5-12 years) equipment and add in phases as funds become available.

Councilmember Ibarra agreed with commission to move forward, submitting to City Council and then public would be invited to Council meeting. Appears that community wants park. He also asked staff to see what kind of deterrents can be used to be sensitive to adjacent neighbors. Staff will bring this information back to the next meeting.

1. c Dog Park Committee – Commissioner Marshall announced that Ad-hoc Committee met on July 6, 2009 along with dog park user members and came up with the following:

Users wish list:

- * Larger area than Commodore Dog Park
- * Dogs off leash
- * Available seven days a week
- * Ideally 24hrs a day but in a shared time scenario 7am-9am and 4pm-6pm
- * Dog water fountain and bag dispenser
- * Capable of raising their own funds
- * In a trial time-share scenario Grundy is 1st choice

Ad-hoc comments:

- * 4-month trial with a review from P & R staff after 3 months
- * City can pull the plug at any time if things get out of hand
- * Concerns of number of dogs
- * Concerns of policing and user conflicts.

Director Schwartz reviewed results of an email survey that was sent to other Parks & Recreation Directors regarding Off-leash Dog Hours in City Parks.

Chair Pierce opened discussion to public – comments from public:

Rhonda Sims, Acacia Avenue, thanked PRC for taking time and going over proposal, and would like to also concede with mixed use for multiple locations to reduce one area from being more popular than others.

Linda Perry, Cypress Avenue, said she has been going to Neighborhood Park for several years and it has become a great way to get out and meet people. She knows park is for children and feels it is usually underused. Pleasure to have dogs get out and run and would like to see all parks having a multi-use dog/people ordinance.

Tim Fuller, Kains Avenue, thanked PRC for time and effort they have put into this proposal. Feels that people that live around parks would utilize their parks if there were a multi-use dog/people ordinance.

Chair Pierce closed public comments and opened discussion to commission:

Commissioner Nigel asked about City liability of off leash areas? Staff will check with City Attorney. **Commissioner Zamattia** stated that currently no dogs are allowed in City parks and asked if we could change the City Ordinance. Staff said the Commission could recommend adding an “Amendment to Ordinance” to the City Council The Commission also discussed that any change to the ordinance should be done for a four-month trial period.

After much discussion, Staff was asked to investigate the costs and impacts of allowing dogs at Mt. Verde, Pacific Heights, Grundy and Forest lane.

1. a Athletic Field Committee - Director Schwartz discussed the background of the Athletic Field Committee. The Commission’s conclusion that a replacement field for Sandburg was not needed and how the Commission shifted the focus of the work to consider the potential for improvements to existing athletic fields. He stated that the Parks In-Lieu Funds could only be used on projects that increase the capacity of the parks system and would be the only source of funds for major field improvement, but there are many potential projects for these funds including the fields, a new swimming pool and smaller projects such as dog park improvements or a new playground at Catalpa. Schwartz reminded the Commissioners that the work at lions Field was broken into two phases, with the batting cage construction now underway and the

other fence and paving work to be done in November and December, after the field users season ends. After much discussion regarding the various athletic fields, **Commissioner Davis** suggested moving forward with Lions Field as the first priority for improvements. **Chair Pierce** asked staff to report on options and price estimates at a future meeting. **Commissioner Davis** asked for the report to include potential revenue options for the facility.

B. COMMUNICATIONS: None

C. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Claire Zvanski Spatafore, Oakmont Drive expressed her concern of the lack of maintenance at Commodore Dog Park. She asked about the construction that is going on and the water in park area. She and other dog owners that use Commodore dog park would like to work with Commission to help raise monies for improvements i.e.; pay lights, Astroturf, lighting. She also noted that she felt that having dog owners in park deters others from just hanging around. **Manager Freitas** informed her of the broken water main that the Public Works Department is working on and that he has contacted Cal-Trans regarding the water problem and with the economy now nothing will be done. **Director Schwartz** assured her that she would be contacted of any upcoming meetings. He will check with Finance Department to set-up a Dog Park Donation account earmarked only for dog park usage.

D. NEW BUSINESS: Director Schwartz said that he is going to work on revisions of the Master Fee Schedule in the fall for the Commission's review before next year's budget and asked if Commissioners wanted to work on the project directly or wait until the first draft was complete. The Commissioner asked Director Schwartz to complete the first draft and then bring it to the Commission.

E. REPORTS:

1. **Staff Reports:** In addition to the weekly reports, staff presented the Spring Finance and Participation reports. **Manager Brewer** stated that this report will be compiled and given to the Commissioners three times a year.
2. **Commissioners Reports:**
 - A. **Commissioner Nigel** said he spent the day at San Bruno City Park with his grandson also visiting the Recreation Center, Parks Corp Yard and talking with Summer Camp Recreation Leaders. Everyone was working very hard and efficient especially now that staff is smaller and has double the workloads, he is so impressed with staff and this made him very proud of the department.
 - B. **Chair Pierce** thanked Councilman Ibarra for attending meeting. He also extended an invitation to judge and participate at AYSO's Soccer Fest on August 28th at Capuchino High School.
 - C. **Manager Freitas** asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of one of our co-workers, and a City Employee of 14 years, in our Cable TV department Dennis Celli that passed away on Monday.

- H. **ADJOURNMENT:** With no other business to be conducted, **Chair Pierce** adjourned the meeting at 9:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Mattias
Executive Assistant